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LANSING

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ENROLLED BILL ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: HB 4893 (H-1)

TOPIC: Provides for a special volunteer license for retired optometrists.

SPONSOR: Representative Mike Callton

CO-SPONSORS: Representatives Rick Olson, Mike Shirkey, Joel Johnson, Sean McCann, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Matt Huuki, Gail Haines, Peter MacGregor, Paul Muxlow, Thomas Hooker, Ken Yonker, Paul Scott, George Darany, Lesia Liss

COMMITTEE(S): House Health Policy
Senate Health Policy

DATE INTRODUCED: September 7, 2011

DATE ENROLLED: January 19, 2012

DATE OF ANALYSIS: January 24, 2012

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Administration is neutral on the legislation.

PROBLEM/BACKGROUND

PA 24 of 2006, which was signed into law on February 16, 2006, was the first volunteer license for health professionals and enabled retired physicians (medical doctors, osteopathic physicians and podiatrists) to obtain a volunteer license provided they were no longer actively practicing their profession. On December 30, 2006, PA 591 of 2006 was signed into law and expanded the volunteer license to also include retired dentists.

DESCRIPTION OF BILL

HB 4893 amends Section 16184 that would enable retired optometrists to also obtain a volunteer license. The bill also adds Subsection (5) that states: "An individual who is granted a special volunteer license under this section shall only engage in activities within the scope of practice of the profession for which he or she was licensed prior to retirement."

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS

Pro

This bill would allow retired optometrists to provide eye care services to Michigan residents who are uninsured, underinsured or who may reside in parts of the state where access to eye care may not be readily available. The retired optometrist must have been in good standing prior to the expiration of his or her license.

Con

Those individuals that have retired and have elected to maintain their license do not benefit from the immunity that this legislation provides.

FISCAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT

Are there revenue or budgetary implications in the bill to the –

(a) Department

Budgetary: Because a volunteer license is already available to physicians and dentists, it would entail minimal changes to include optometrists on the application packet. Due to the low number of retired physicians and dentists who have applied for the volunteer license, it is not anticipated a large number of optometrists would apply for the special volunteer license. Currently, only 44 volunteer licenses have been issued. The breakdown is as follows: retired dentists (14); retired medical doctors (29); and, retired osteopathic physicians (1). No volunteer licenses have been issued to retired podiatrists.

Revenue: There is no fee charged to applicants who apply for the volunteer license. There is a fee, however, for the controlled substance license if they wish to prescribe.

Comments:

(b) State

Budgetary: See above.

Revenue: See above.

Comments:

(c) Local Government

Comments: Not applicable.

OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS

Department of Attorney General; Department of Community Health (Medicaid)

ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

By specifying only one license type such as dentists, dental hygienists and registered dental assistants are being excluded from the volunteer license.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES IMPACT

None.